

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01  
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INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI  
AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 0971

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PEPR SOPH CH UR  
SUBJ: REFERENCE NEWS COVERAGE OF SOVIET ACTIVITIES AND OTHER  
INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

SUMMARY: THE BULK OF THE FOREIGN PRESS REPORTS CARRIED IN  
THE APRIL 8 EDITION OF THE RESTRICTED "REFERENCE NEWS," PRE-  
SENT THE SOVIET UNION IN AN UNFAVORABLE LIGHT: MENGISTU'S  
SECRET VISIT TO THE SOVIET UNION, BREZHNEV'S VISIT TO  
VLADIVOSTOK, SOVIET NAVAL ACTIVITIES OFF SCOTLAND, A  
NEWSWEEK ESSAY ABOUT SALT, AFRICA AND CHINA, SOVIET ROCKET  
DEPLOYMENT, AND A DAILY TELEGRAPH ARTICLE, "THE CUBAN  
MISSILE CRISIS OF 1978: RUSSIA TESTS CARTER." THE ISSUE  
ALSO CONTAINS A DISCUSSION OF CHINESE FOREIGN POLICY, A  
REPORT ON NICARAGUA, A READER'S DIGEST ARTICLE ABOUT  
BHUTAN, AND WIRE SERVICE REPORTS ON THE CARTER ADMINI-  
STRATION'S PLANS TO DELAY PRODUCTION OF THE NEUTRON BOMB.  
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END SUMMARY.

2. USLO HAS OBTAINED THE APRIL 8 EDITION OF TS'AN-KAO  
HSIAO-HSI ("REFERENCE NEWS"), THE MASS CIRCULATION DAILY  
DIGEST OF FOREIGN PRESS REPORTS. "REFERENCE NEWS" IS  
INTENDED ONLY FOR INTERNAL DISTRIBUTION TO CHINESE  
FOR WHOM IT MAY BE THE MAIN SOURCE OF NEWS OF THE

OUTSIDE WORLD. ITS EDITORIAL SLANT IS CONSIDERED BY SOME DIPLOMATS IN PEKING AS A USEFUL BAROMETER OF PRC POLICY.

3. THE APRIL 8 ISSUE UNDERSCORES THE MORE OFFICIAL MESSAGE OF RECENT NEW CHINA NEWS AGENCY ARTICLES: THE SOVIET UNION PRESENTS AN EVER-GROWING DANGER TO WORLD PEACE AND OPPOSITION TO THE SOVIET UNION WILL REMAIN THE CORNERSTONE OF CHINESE FOREIGN POLICY FOR YEARS TO COME. FOR INSTANCE, THE APRIL 8 ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS UPI AND REUTERS APRIL 6 REPORTS ABOUT ETHIOPIA'S STRONGMAN MENGISTU'S SECRET VISIT TO THE SOVIET UNION AND SOVIET ACTIVITIES IN THE HORN OF AFRICA; SHORT APRIL 6 AFP AND UPI REPORTS ON BREZHNEV'S ACTIVITIES IN VLADIVOSTOK (THIS APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN A DAILY FEATURE DURING BREZHNEV'S CURRENT TRAVELS); EXCERPTS FROM THE APRIL 10 NEWSWEEK ARTICLE, "A SIGNAL FROM MOSCOW"; AND AN APRIL 6 REUTERS REPORT FROM LONDON ABOUT SOVIET NAVAL ACTIVITIES OFF SCOTLAND. THE ISSUE ALSO CONTAINS OTHER ARTICLES ABOUT THE SOVIET UNION: SOVIET EMPHASIS ON ROCKET DEPLOYMENT (MANICHI, APRIL 4); SOVIET RECRUITMENT OF FOREIGN LANGUAGE EXPERTS (AP, MARCH 23), AND A MARCH 27 DAILY TELEGRAPH ARTICLE, "THE CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS OF 1978: RUSSIA TESTS CARTER." THE MESSAGE IS CLEAR. THE SOVIET UNION WILL RELENTLESSLY SEEK TO EXPAND ITS INFLUENCE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD AGAINST

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A LESS DETERMINED UNITED STATES. TO UNDERSCORE THEIR POINT, THE EDITORS OF "REFERENCE NEWS" INCLUDE AN APRIL 6 UPI REPORT AND AN APRIL 7 AP REPORT QUOTING CARTER ADMINISTRATION SOURCES ABOUT THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION TO DEFER PRODUCTION OF THE NEUTRON BOMB.

4. THE APRIL 8 ISSUE ALSO CONTAINS EXCERPTS FROM A MARCH 29 EDITORIAL ("APPLES AND ORCHARDS") ON CHINESE FOREIGN POLICY IN THE WEST GERMAN DIE WELT. THE EDITORIAL HIGHLIGHTS THE "NEW VIGOR" IN CHINESE FOREIGN POLICY WITH ITS APPRECIATION OF THE STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE OF NORTHEAST, SOUTHEAST AND SOUTH ASIA AS WELL AS WESTERN EUROPE. PART OF THE REASON IS TENG HSIAO-PING'S EXPERIENCE IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND THE EDITORIAL IS ALMOST EFFUSIVE IN ITS PRAISE FOR THE VICE PREMIER. THE EDITORIAL'S MAJOR POINT IS THAT CHINESE OPPOSITION TOWARD THE SOVIET UNION WILL NEVER CHANGE.

5. OTHER MISCELLANEOUS ARTICLES INCLUDE AN APRIL 1 BRITISH "INTELLIGENCE DIGEST" REPORT ON NICARAGUA, AN APRIL 3 TANZANIAN "DAILY NEWS" REPORT ON THE

TANZAM RAILROAD, AN APRIL READER'S DIGEST (CHINESE EDITION) ARTICLE ON BHUTAN AND WIRE SERVICE REPORTS ON THE INTERNATIONAL SOLAR ENERGY MEETING AND MIT RESEARCH ON SOLAR ENERGY PROBLEMS.

6. COPY POUCHED TO HONG KONG.  
WOODCOCK

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## Message Attributes

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